



U.S. Department of Justice

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NEWS RELEASE

WANDA BARZEE IS SENTENCED TO 15 YEARS IN FEDERAL PRISON FOR HER ROLE IN KIDNAPPING OF ELIZABETH SMART

SALT LAKE CITY – U.S. District Judge Dale A. Kimball sentenced Wanda Barzee, age 64, to 15 years in federal prison Friday morning for her role in the kidnapping of Elizabeth Smart. Judge Kimball issued the sentencing during a hearing in U.S. District Court in Salt Lake City.

Barzee pleaded guilty to kidnapping and unlawful transportation of a minor in November and agreed to cooperate with prosecutors in pending federal and state prosecutions. In exchange for her cooperation, federal prosecutors agreed to a prison sentence of 15 years with credit for time served. At the time she is eligible for release from federal custody, she will be more than 70 years old. Following her release from federal prison (no parole), she will be on supervised release for 60 months.

“There can be no dispute as to the seriousness of the conduct in this case. A then 14-year-old Elizabeth Smart was forcibly abducted from her own bed, in her own bedroom, in her own home. Her and her family’s nightmare, which began that night, lasted over nine months,” Carlie Christensen, Acting U.S. Attorney for Utah, said today.

“The United States believes that a 15-year sentence reflects the seriousness of this offense, promotes respect for the law and provides just punishment, especially considering the defendant’s past cooperation and continued willingness to cooperate in this case in the future,” Christensen said.

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